

Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Full Committee Markup
Markup of H.R. 3548, the Improving Trauma Care Act; H.R. 4080, the Trauma Systems and
Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization Act; H.R. 1281, the Newborn
Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act; and H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine
Mobility Act
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(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today we look to build upon our strong record of bipartisan success in public health as we consider four bills that address issues affecting trauma patients, newborns, and veterinarians. We have a proud record this Congress of working together, and the results to prove it with a number of public health bills that have been signed into law by President Obama.

First, we will consider two bills from committee members related to trauma care. H.R. 3548, the Improving Trauma Care Act, introduced by Rep. Bill Johnson, is designed to correct the inconsistencies in the definitions of trauma that have resulted in gaps in care and coverage. This bill will help important trauma centers like Bronson Methodist Hospital's Burn Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan to better care for their patients. In addition, we will consider H.R. 4080, the Trauma Systems and Regionalization of Emergency Care Reauthorization. Introduced by Dr. Burgess and Rep. Green, the bill would reauthorize two programs related to the planning and development of regional emergency care. Both of these bills will improve trauma care so that Americans can promptly receive specialized, life-saving treatment after a traumatic injury.

Next, we will consider H.R. 1281, the Newborn Screening Saves Lives Reauthorization Act, introduced by Rep. Roybal-Allard. Prior to passage of this bill in 2008, the number and quality of newborn screening tests varied from state to state. Today, with guidelines created by the bill, screenings reach 4 million babies in the U.S. every year. Reauthorization will continue this important program and encourage more timely efforts to identify diseases, such as Spinal Muscular Atrophy, and ensure best practices. Early screening and diagnosis often means better disease management and better outcomes for these children.

Finally, we will consider H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2013, which is a bipartisan, pragmatic solution to the confusion that resulted from the DEA's interpretation of the Controlled Substances Act. Veterinary medicine is very unique because vets need to be able to travel to their patients to make "house calls." It simply isn't practical to bring large animals, such as cows, pigs or horses to the vets' primary place of business. This commonsense bill will enable vets to bring the medicines they need with them so they can provide proper care for their animal patients.

Our members and staff have worked hard to bring these bills to markup today. I want to thank everyone for their efforts, and I look forward to building on our record of bipartisan success.

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